

Come alooong

The Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve Newsletter

Issue 19 - June 2006

Next Fun in the Forest Weekend at Ben Ricketts 22nd & 23rd July 2006

Put it in your diary now!

Come and join in at Ben Ricketts for another weekend of work and fun. Accommodation provided, Saturday night dinner provided by Ben Ricketts, bring a contribution to lunches. Get involved in bush regeneration, clearing pasture, marking and clearing tracks, cabin maintenance. Let Hyone know if you are coming on either 42360208 or bookings@benricketts.org.au Julia King is organising Saturday night so let her know you can help!

The next one after this will be the **4th & 5th November 2006** which will include the Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve Pty Ltd AGM on Sunday at 12 noon.

There will also be a **Spring Clean Working Bee** from **18th to 22nd September**. (See below)

Report on last Landcare/Working Bee

The following people were present:

Karl Schurr, Annie McCluskey, Keren Cox-Witton, James Cox, Abby Parkes, Kieran Livermore, Trish Evans, Nita Kent, Peter Kent, Barry Duncan, Trisha Dean, Fred Lind, Peter Crozier, Jeanne Crozier, Jane Gye, Steve Gye, Julia Smith, Peter Smith, Hyone King and Joan King, (Robert Pallin and Nancy Pallin Friday night only).

To do the following:

Peter Crozier led the team to rebuild the Chookhouse, Barry led a group to remark and clear the Qwerty track circuit, Jane Gye led the trad, mistflower and Arum lily removers and Hyone led pruning in the Garden to increase sunlight to the vegetable beds. Cabin 2 had its walls washed, the creek water supply was checked, smoke alarms are installed, more pasture was cleared of mist weed behind cabins 2 and 3, Annie McCluskey and the Activities Committee fed the throng and everyone had a great time.

Jane Gye writes:

The long period of dry weather meant that the few arum lilies left/regrown in the swamp below the goathouse could be readily treated. However the mist flower forms a carpet over the swamp and although considerable work has already been done to remove it, the job will take much longer than the arum lilies. Karl, Keren and Jane continued working into the swamp, removing mist flower and wandering jew ("trad"). Keren and James and friends continued weeding on Sunday afternoon.

The arum lily compost heap was turned which required a bit of spadework and exercised the back muscles as it is full of clay.

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Landcare work was also done behind the goathouse, and beyond the swamp where the trad is losing the battle against the Ben Ricketts landcare zealots. Native vegetation is quickly returning.

Drumming Workshop/ Qi Gong/ Thai Cooking

The Thai cooking segment is already booked out. Sorry!

There are only four places left for the Drumming workshop and Qi Gong. Book Now!

On the weekend of July 29 &30 there will be a special treat in which you can indulge in three quite different activities at Ben Ricketts.

The weekend will commence with a Qi gong session (think Tai Chi with a twist) led by Nita Kent on Saturday morning. Qi Gong consists of simple and powerful movements. It is the ancient art of longevity and wellbeing from China. (Ben Ricketts is already renowned for the longevity of past patrons).

In the afternoon there will be a drumming workshop which will be led by Julie Blanchard, a fantastic music teacher. Drums will be provided for use. Expect to have a load of fun.

~~In the evening Karl Schurr will lead us in his now famous Thai cooking classes when even the most inept in the kitchen feel like culinary giants. **LIMIT 8 persons**~~

On Sunday there will be another Qi Gong session followed by a bush walk for those willing.

Cost: Includes share accommodation for Fri and Sat nights

Without Thai Cooking Shareholder rate \$95 Other \$155

~~With Thai Cooking Shareholder rate \$125 Other \$185~~

Book now with Hylene on 02 42360208 or at bookings@benricketts.org.au

Spring Clean Working Bee (or Fun in the Cabins?)

The accommodation committee has another **Spring clean working bee** planned during the midweek of 18th and 22nd of September. Although the spring cleans are not as "interesting" as some of our other working bees they are just as necessary for our comfort. Any help is welcome for the whole time or just for a day, as usual with all working bees accommodation is free. Contact Nita Kent on 9449 1288 or kent_nita@yahoo.com.au or Pien Frissel on 9660 4761 pienfrissel@bigpond.com

Jamberoo Overdevelopment

There is a development application with Kiama Council for a housing development on the land between Jamberoo village, Jamberoo Mountain Road and right back to near the Minnamurra Rainforest turnoff. This will dramatically change the character of Jamberoo village which has about 340 dwellings at present with 195 proposed in this development.

If you want to know more about this please visit the Jrooforum website at www.jrooforum.com.au

You can also get regular updates by sending a blank email to jrooforumnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com You can unsubscribe at any time.

It is important that we make our voice heard about this development.

Winter bookings A walk, a fire, a good book and a bottle of red!

Winter weekends are fully booked for June and July. Bookings for August weekends and June, July and August midweek for most weeks are still available. Late August and early September can be a beautiful time for walks on the Barren Grounds. The spring flowers are great!